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Message Text

SECRET

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44
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 062396
P 121813Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5588
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 00531

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANESE ARMS CONTROL

REF: STATE 006146
1. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR MADE THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL TO MINISTERIAL DIRIGENT JESSER, DEPUTY FRG DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS, AND DR. BOECKER, THE MIDDLE EAST DESK OFFICER.

2. JESSER AND BOECKER BOTH REITERATED WHAT THE GERMANS HAVE ALREADY TOLD US, TO THE EFFECT THAT FRG POLICY FORBIDS SHIPMENT OF ARMS TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND THAT THIS POLICY IS NOT LIKELY TO CHANGE.

3. BOECKER SPECULATED THAT WEAPONS FOR LEBANESE FACTIONS WERE PASSING THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ARMS DEALERS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES, AND THAT THE FINANCINQ
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APPEARED TO COME PRINCIPALLY FROM LEBANESE EMIGRANTS.

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HE SAID THE GERMANS HAD HEARD RUMORS OF SAUDI FINANCING AND HOPED TO DISCUSS SAUDI POLICY WITH SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FAYSAL, WHO HE SAID WOULD BE VISITING GERMANY IN A FEW WEEKS.

4. BOECKER SAID THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD BEEN GIVING SOME THOUGHT TO THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO COMBAT PRIVATE ARMS SHIPMENTS AND WOULD LIKE TO SEEK THE COOPERATION OF OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TOWARD THIS EFFORT. BUT THE GERMANS HAVE NOT YET OFFICIALLY APPROACHED OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

5. BOECKER SAID THAT THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT HAD BEEN REPORTING THAT THE DRUZE LEADER JUMBLATT (SP) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPREADING RUMORS THAT THE CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON WERE GETTING THEIR ARMS FROM WEST GERMAN SOURCES. THE FOREIGN OFFICE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT LEBANESE CHRISTIANS MAY BE GETTING ARMS FROM CHRISTIAN OFFICERS IN THE LEBANESE ARMY. HOWEVER, THE FRG HAS NO INFORMATION THAT WOULD CONFIRM ANY OF THESE RUMORS. AS FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF GERMAN ARMS DEALERS INVOLVED IN THIS TRAFFIC, THE FRG IS CONFIDENT THAT NO WEAPONS ARE COMING THROUGH GERMANY BUT IT COULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME GERMAN DEALERS MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC OF ARMS OUTSIDE GERMANY. SUCH

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 121813Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5589
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
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EXDIS

TRAFFIC, BOECKER SAID, IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE FRG TO CONTROL, THOUGH IT TRIES TO DO WHAT IT CAN BY PROSE-CUTING DEALERS WHEN THERE IS DEFINITE INFORMATION.

6. IN RESPONSE TO JESSER'S AND BOECKER'S OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE DIFFICULTIES OF CONTROLING INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRAFFIC, THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAID THAT WE AGREED BUT THAT THE GREAT DANGERS INHERENT IN THE LEBANESE SITUATION MADE IT IMPERATIVE TO CONSIDER ANY MEANS THAT MIGHT IMPEDE THIS TRAFFIC. HE SAID THAT WE HOPED THE FRG WOULD CONSIDER THEPOINTS WE HAD MADE AND WOULD REPLY TO US WITH ITS IDEAS REGARDING POSSIBLE MEASURES. THE GERMANS AGREED THAT THEY WOULD DO THIS, ADDING THAT THEY AGREED WITH OUR ESTIMATE THAT THE WAR IN LEBANON COULD ENDANGER THE STABILITY OF THE ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST.

7. THE GERMANS ALSO SAID THAT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROBLEM IF WE COULD
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PASS THEM SUCH INFORMATION AS WE HAVE REGARDING THE LIKELY SOURCES OF LEBANESE WEAPONS. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE US FOR THIS PURPOSE.

8. IN CONCLUDING, JESSER ASKED US TO INFORM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON THAT THE FRG DEEPLY APPRECIATED THE DETAILED BRIEFING HE PROVIDED REGARDING OUR POLICY ON TODAY'S SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ARMS EXPORT LICENSES, ARMS TRANSPORT RESTRICTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN00531
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760010-0962
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760167/aaaachob.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 6146
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE ARMS CONTROL
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, LE, GE, (JESSER, DIRIGENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006